

held this seat, and Senator KENNEDY, who is our committee chair today on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

One of the witnesses today was a gentleman from Senator KENNEDY's State of Massachusetts, Joe Aguiar, who worked for a fabric manufacturer for nearly 30 years. He and 900 coworkers were laid off without any notice last summer. As are so many workers in manufacturing, he is about 50 years old. Like so many other workers in my State of Ohio, in Springfield and Lima and Tiffin and Marietta, their lives have been upended. For most, the pensions and health care which they earned and which they desperately need and which they thought had been promised to them, so often the pensions and health care will be slashed.

Mr. Aguiar, as workers do in places such as Marion, OH, and Xenia and Zanesville—those workers need an extension of unemployment insurance. Now more than ever, we need to extend those unemployment benefits because so many workers see their unemployment benefits run out because they can't find comparable jobs.

It is very simple. Economists on Wall Street and Washington and universities all say that every dollar invested in unemployment benefits leads to \$1.64 in growth—more than any other stimulus package, any other stimulus program, any other way to put money into the economy. We had this discussion, and the unemployment extension was blocked by congressional Republicans some months ago. In addition, we offered a stimulus package which will, in fact, put money in people's pockets—a good thing. Unemployment extension would have come quicker and put money into the pockets of those who will spend it immediately because they are struggling. They need the money for gas for their cars to go out and look for jobs, for food to feed their families, and the daily necessities of life.

The Congressional Budget Office agrees that a dollar in unemployment benefits leads to \$1.64 in growth, finding that extending unemployment benefits is cost-effective and the single fastest acting measure.

The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and the Akron Beacon Journal in my State all agree. Last week, the House approved an extension of unemployment insurance. The Democrats are trying to—or are going to—include unemployment insurance extension in the stimulus package. We hope the Republicans don't filibuster this, and that the President finally changes his mind and signs an extension of unemployment insurance. It is a reasonable extension and needs to be done now.

As I came over here today to talk about unemployment benefits and extending them, my thoughts turned to Senator KENNEDY and his family. Senator KENNEDY, who we find out today has been diagnosed with a serious illness, has been fighting for an extension

of unemployment insurance certainly lately in this case, and other times, but he is always fighting for workers, the poor, and the middle class. Nobody in this Congress has consistently, or for a longer period of time, in the history of this institution, fought for workers or the middle class the way Senator KENNEDY has, and the way he will continue to; he has been tireless about this.

Just last week, I stood on the Senate floor with Senator KENNEDY as we worked together to pass legislation that came out of his committee, a committee on which I also sit, the Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee, to establish collective bargaining rights for firefighters and others. When it comes to issues facing working families, Senator KENNEDY, as recently as last week, fought for legislation to give workers a civil right—the right to collective bargaining. He has been the compass of this institution too. He focuses his attention and our attention on the insecurities so many families in this country are facing. Our prayers today are with him as he heals, and with his lovely family.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we close morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. What now is the pending business before the Senate?

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A message from the House is the pending measure.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that title VIII in its entirety, section 1004 of title X, and section 1005 of title X, each violates paragraph 4 of Senate rule XVI in the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment No. 2, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The motion to concur with the amendment falls.

AMENDMENT NO. 4803

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the patience of my friend from New

Jersey. He was here much earlier in the day. For a number of reasons we were unable to have him recognized at that time, but he is always such a team player who is willing to wait. I appreciate my friend from New Jersey very much.

At this time I now move to concur with House amendment No. 2, with the amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Mr. REID moves to concur in the House amendment No. 2 to Senate amendment to H.R. 2642 with an amendment 4803.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4804 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4803

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk and I now ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4804 to amendment No. 4803.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I now send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations bill, with an amendment, Senate amendment No. 4803.

Harry Reid, Richard Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Dianne Feinstein, Mary L. Landrieu, Joseph Lieberman, Daniel K. Akaka, Barbara A. Mikulski, Byron L. Dorgan, Maria Cantwell, Sherrod Brown.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have had a number of conversations with the distinguished Republican leader and I